

CSL CONNECTION

The California State Library | Founded 1850

Issue No. 39

SUMMER 2005

In this issue:



State Librarian Update

I am honored that the California Senate Rules Committee voted to formally recommend to the full Senate my confirmation as State Librarian of California on [April 20, 2005](#). I am also pleased to report that, on May 2, 2005, the Senate voted unanimously (37-0) to accept the Rules Committee's recommendation. I look forward to continuing to work at the local, state and national levels on behalf of not just the California State Library but also all California's libraries and those who work in the library field.

Spring's warmer weather has made my work particularly enjoyable as I've traveled around the country representing California's library community at regional and national conferences and meetings. I had a great trip to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, where I met with the Western

Council of State Librarians (which includes all the state library agencies west of the Mississippi) and participated in an informative training session on digitization efforts in neighboring states.



Library and Courts II
at 900 N Street in Sacramento

I came back just in time to welcome librarians and library supporters to the California Library Association Annual Legislative Day in Sacramento on Wednesday, April 20. Legislative Day is a great way to ensure our state legislators know that libraries are important!

It was a wonderful coincidence that my confirmation hearing with the Senate Rules Committee was scheduled for the same day. I appreciate all those Legislative Day attendees who took time out of their schedules to stop by the hearing and voice their support.

The first week of May was busy as I traveled to Washington, DC to attend the quarterly meeting of the Chief Officers of the State Library Agencies (COSLA) and to participate in the American Library Association Legislative Days. Our large

California delegation was able to see both our Senators and most of our House members or staff during an exciting and exhausting two days.

While in Washington I learned that I had been elected President-elect of the Public Library Association for which I will serve as President from July 2006 through June 2007. Through this important role, I believe that I can nationally highlight the great work in California public libraries and also help our libraries move forward in the 21st century.

I hope you enjoy the diverse topics in CSL Connection's summer 2005 issue. As always, we welcome your feedback.

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California State Library's Public Library Director Orientation



State Librarian of California Susan Hildreth opens the Public Library Directors Orientation at the Sacramento Hyatt

"Bringing the State Together"

When California's public library directors gathered March 16 and 17 at Sacramento's Hyatt Regency for the California State Library's Public Library Directors' Orientation, the adjacent State Capitol Park was verdant with camellia blooms and cherry blossoms. Capitol Park was an ideal background against which 122 of California's library leaders would learn (or re-learn) how California State Library (CSL) programs and services help California's public libraries flourish.

State Librarian of California Susan Hildreth said in her welcome that the orientation's goal was to "bring the state together as a team." And in an early session, chair of the California Library Association (CLA) Legislative Committee, Mark Smith emphasized that government leaders see library directors as "authorities," that the CSL's training would enable the directors to be "even better" advocates for their libraries.

Hildreth's and Smith's imperatives resonated over two days of sessions as CSL leaders, CSL staff, and distinguished guest speakers addressed topics such as "California Library Funding Programs," "Pending State and Federal Legislations," "On-Line Statewide Library Services," "State Library Services," and "Future CSL Initiatives."



Mark Smith and Danis Kreimeier share the podium at the Public Library Directors Orientation

Many serious subject matters engaged the group. The audience listened attentively to the

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Public Library Director Orientation, continued

sessions, among which were:

- Deputy State Librarian Cameron Robertson delineating the history of the Public Library Fund (PLF).
- Library Development Services staff explaining Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding (what Hildreth calls "California's venture capital").
- CLA President Danis Kreimeier calling for institutional memberships in the CLA.
- Mark Smith calling on directors to be "experts in their communities."

Diverse Districts – Diverse Needs

According to CSL Library Development Services Chief Tom Andersen, the orientation "was geared toward newer directors, but those wishing a refresher were welcome too." The mix of veterans, new directors, and deputies made the orientation conducive not just to formal instruction, but also to informal mentoring. Between sessions, attendees glimpsed distant California districts from other leaders' stories; they picked-up funding tips; they exchanged business cards and management strategies.

Though the directors all were in Sacramento to hear about the CSL's services, how they would use CSL tools and information in their districts varied widely.

Lisa Rutherford, director of the Banning Public Library, traveled to Sacramento to learn firsthand how the CSL could help her "rapidly expanding" district between Palm Springs and San Bernardino. Rutherford says "if the economy keeps growing our county officials project that our district's population will double in the next 10-15 years," a statistic that is prompting Rutherford "to do long-term planning."

Because she will have to apply for a library construction grant for her growing district in the near future, Rutherford found Bond Act Manager Richard Hall's presentation on the planning software [Libris Design](#) useful.

Lisa Musgrove of the [Siskiyou County Library](#), some 723 miles north of Banning, came to Sacramento, like Rutherford, to learn how the CSL could help her library. Far from "growing" though, Musgrove reports Siskiyou County's economy is struggling. The sparsely populated northern community (some branches such as Happy Camp and Tule Lake are 1 ½ hours from the Yreka main branch) must live with declining timber and mining industries and the cash draining proximity of tax-free Oregon.

"I'm here," Musgrove said, "because my rural library is financially dependent on the state. I'm also very interested in the legislative aspect – in how the Governor and the legislature are going to be treating my library..." The orientation, said Musgrove, allowed her to "wrap [her] head around" CSL funding sources such as [e-rate](#), the PLF, and LSTA grants. It also helped her "remember that legislators can help rural libraries."

At the orientation's conclusion, Hildreth touched on future activities that will help public library directors. She talked about a collaborative statewide summer reading program in which participating libraries share marketing strategies, supplies, and logos. And, of primary interest to directors-in-training, she said the CSL would develop an executive component of CSL's Public Library Staff Education Program in cooperation with San Jose State University's Executive Master of Library and Information Science program for library managers and administrators.

For more information about the CSL's services for public libraries and people who work in public libraries, please explore [Services to Libraries](#) on the CSL homepage, www.library.ca.gov.

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State Librarian and Arts Council Director team-up on National Public Radio

State Librarian of California Susan Hildreth and Director of the [California Arts Council \(CAC\)](#) Muriel Johnson talked for an hour on "[Insight](#)," Sacramento's National Public Radio (NPR) talk show on March 28, 2005. Hildreth and Johnson showed a discerning Sacramento audience that California's key cultural agencies are in very capable hands.



Susan Hildreth and Muriel Johnson relax with interviewer Jeffrey Callison after live radio talk show.

Hildreth (who as San Francisco's City Librarian helped nominate Lawrence Ferlinghetti San Francisco's first Poet Laureate) and Johnson helped cull [California Poet Laureate nominees for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger](#). Though they touched on the Poet Laureate process, Hildreth and Johnson spent most of the hour on more complex topics.

After introducing Hildreth and Johnson as "two powerful women in California arts and education," interviewer Jeffrey Callison shot the agency leaders tough questions about state funding, Internet filtering, censorship, the USA Patriot Act and discrepancies in arts and library services between poor and affluent California neighborhoods: neither Hildreth nor Johnson flinched.

Hildreth astutely turned the popular afternoon show into a vehicle for promoting the excellence of California's libraries and its librarians. Answering how the Internet "has changed librarianship," Hildreth said everyone who works in libraries has "embraced" the Internet, yet every library customer with Google thinks himself a librarian. As a result, Hildreth said, the librarian is no longer the "gatekeeper" outside the door of information and research but the facilitator, the "navigator on the sea of information."

Responding to a question about the funding drop for libraries, Hildreth didn't bemoan cuts but used the question to highlight the importance of school libraries. California, she said, ranks 48th nationally for public schools with dedicated school librarians. As a result, California "pays the price." Though public libraries serve "as many children as possible without school library services," what those young people really need for successful college careers are in-school libraries and librarians, Hildreth said.

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Salinas Library Update

Salinas library saved from closing

Community support saved the Salinas Public Library from closing down this year, though it has drastically reduced the hours its three branches are open each week.

In April, Mayor Anna Caballero's [Rally Salinas](#) effort announced that they had raised more than the \$500,000 needed to keep the library's doors open through the end of the year. Many members of the staff quit their jobs, anticipating the library's closure, and late in April, Salinas officials announced that they could keep the John Steinbeck and Cesar Chavez branches open only 18 hours per week, while the El Gabilan branch will be open only 13 hours per week.

The [library's financial](#) crisis made the national and [international news](#) at the end of last year, when the failure of two funding issues left the city strapped for dollars. For a time it looked as if the city would close the public library, but then a number of public officials, including State Librarian of California Susan Hildreth and American Library Association President-elect Michael Gorman, joined an effort to prevent this drastic measure from going into effect. The city of Salinas is currently considering a ballot measure to provide stable funding for the library and other city services slated for reduction.

The public library has special symbolic importance because Salinas was the hometown of [John Steinbeck](#), winner of the Nobel Prize in literature and one of California's most famous authors.

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California Wildflowers on display at the California State Library

"Golden Poppies and Scarlet Monkeys," the California State Library's exhibit in the Library and Courts II Building, celebrates California wildflowers with a "bouquet" of original watercolors, prints, volumes of pressed flowers, rare books, fine press publications, and ephemera. The exhibition calls attention to the many ways in which the wondrous bounty of the state's wildflowers have been portrayed since first observed and described by European explorers. Particular highlights include the original watercolor wildflower portraits of A.R. Valentien and Cornelia Cunningham, the incomparable botanical prints of Henry Evans, and a spectacular collection of ephemera (playing cards, postcards, fruit crate labels, and even a beer tray) devoted to the Golden Poppy.



CSL Document Repair Technician, Gerrilee Hafvenstein, stands before a "Golden Poppies and Scarlet Monkeys" case and exhibit poster, all curated by CSL Principal Librarian, Special Collections, Gary Kurutz.

The exhibit was curated by Gary Kurutz, Principal Librarian, Special Collections, and beautifully prepared and installed by Gerrilee Hafvenstein, Document Repair Technician. The Library and Courts II Building is located at 900 N Street, Sacramento. The exhibit hours are 9:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The exhibit will run through September 6, 2005.



The opening display case of "Golden Poppies and Scarlet Monkeys" superbly demonstrates the wonderful variety of materials from postcards to calendars inspired by California's wildflowers including a stunning poppy print by Violet Nakashima.

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State Spotlight: *Department of Drug and Alcohol Resource Center Library*

The State of California's Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) is dedicated to "supporting healthy individuals and communities free of alcohol and other drug problems." One program ADP leaders have devised to "support" Californians is a library, the [ADP Resource Center](#).

"We loan to California libraries through our interlibrary loan service," says Cynthia Castillo, ADP Resource Center head librarian, "but we want more libraries to tap into our resources." Castillo encourages people who work in California's libraries to search the [ADP online catalog](#) when customers are seeking facts about alcohol and drug prevention, use, and abuse. On the catalog site, library staff will find a collection of "specialized alcohol and other drug reference sources including books, journals, reports and audio visual materials," says Castillo.

Many Californians, Castillo has found, are unsure where to go for impartial alcohol and drug information. "Our services are here for anyone who is interested in learning about the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs," she says. If a public library, for example, has a customer who is looking for statistics on drug or alcohol use, or wants to learn more about a specific drug or treatment issue, the ADP Resource Center is an excellent resource.

Very popular among borrowers, according to Castillo, are DVDs and VHS videotapes with titles such as "Drug Use and Addiction," "Co-Occurring Disorders," "Mental Health and Drugs," and "Methamphetamine, A Prevention Trilogy." The audio-visual items are, Castillo says, "learning tools for not just treatment programs, prisons, school prevention programs, but also community action groups."

The Resource Center has a clearinghouse that maintains over 600 alcohol and drug booklets, pamphlets, research papers, posters, technical manuals and other printed materials that are free to anyone who wants them. Interested parties can preview the clearinghouse catalog from the [ADP website](#), download the order form and request whatever they wish. The clearinghouse also supports community meetings, conferences, and workshops.

For more information about the ADP Resource Center please visit their website at www.adp.cahwnet.gov/RC/rc_sub.shtml or call 1-800-879-2772.

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World Language Collection at the California State Library

"Biblioteka" (Basque), "pustAghawr" (Bengali), "bibliteka" (Serbo-Croatian), "kutuphane" (Turkish), "thu vien" (Vietnamese), "bibliotek" (Yiddish), and "kozkonyvtar" (Hungarian) are the words for "library" in the languages that many Californians speak and read. Since the 1800s, immigrants have woven rich languages such as these into the vibrant tapestry of California culture.

And for decades, the California State Library (CSL), by providing California's newest citizens with reading material in the languages most familiar to them, has eased those immigrants transition into a new culture.

Since the CSL began collecting world language books, the collection has grown to more than 25,000 titles in at least 50 Arabic, Asian, European, Hispanic, Indic, Scandinavian, and Slavic languages. The collection includes fiction and non-fiction in both original works and translations from English.

The CSL circulates these materials as a service to libraries that serve residents who speak other languages. California libraries may borrow the CSL's world language materials by specifying title, subject, genre, or age level. As a special service, libraries may request a small collection of books for the use of a group of borrowers rather than for only one person. All a library staff member need do is define the group need, and a CSL staff member in Sacramento will select and send up to 25 fiction and/or non-fiction titles anywhere in the state.



J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* in French, Russian and Japanese from the California State Library's World Language Collection.

Julie Davidson, the librarian in charge of the World Language Collection in the CSL's State Information and Reference Center (SIRC), has seen the "grouping" service make a real difference in people's lives. Davidson tells of a group of Chernobyl children who were visiting Nevada County last summer and grappling with homesickness. Davidson sent about 50 Russian children's books for the group to the Nevada County Library. Nevada County's Katrin Olafsson wrote to Davidson, "I cannot thank you enough for all the wonderful children's books you sent our way! The children were starved for books in Russian and were thrilled with the selection!"

Davidson prizes a note that Steve Sherr from the San Mateo County library forwarded from one of his Korean customers. "This is such a wonderful service!" the customer wrote, "I am so appreciative and my 8 year-old is reading Korean each day!" Davidson also chuckles about a user who staff at one local library described as a "very hungry reader," who gobbles up every Japanese language mystery in the library's collection.

Many California libraries have good world language collections but the CSL's collection has unique benefits including an unusually wide variety of languages - from Arabic to Vietnamese. There are also books from many different time periods. Vicki Blegen from SIRC recently noticed a number of Italian romance novels in the stacks from the early part of the last century.

Although all libraries have customers who will enjoy these books, the smaller, rural libraries with "very hungry readers," will find this collection especially valuable.

For further information, please contact: California State Library, State Information and Reference Center, 914 Capitol Mall, Room 301, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001, Phone: 916-654-0261, Fax: 916-654-0241, [Email: cslsirc@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslsirc@library.ca.gov)

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Tiny north state community pulls together and wins big grant

On the northern border of California's high desert is the Dorris Public Library, the smallest of the 45 public libraries awarded funds from the Library Bond Act of 2000.

Though many large libraries may call on planning specialists to help prepare planning documents for grant applications, tiny Dorris (with a projected service area population of only 2,200 by the year 2020) didn't have that luxury. Instead, the Dorris community took action. A group of concerned individuals, library staff members, and city, county, and school district officials and employees formed the Dorris Library Building Committee to define Dorris's need for a new library.

All applicants for Bond Act grant funds must conduct a library needs assessment and develop a library services plan to determine the types of public library services most suitable for the community that the library will serve. To do Dorris's plan, the grant writers imaginatively examined their community by holding general community meetings and distributing surveys to stores, city hall, and local schools, among other places; by visiting classes in the schools to gather information directly from the students; and by conducting interviews and focus groups.

The writers were realistic as they drafted their needs assessment. Recognizing that the community couldn't have everything on its library "wish list," their plan delayed additional library services until funding might be available. As a result, Dorris had one of the highest rated needs assessments of any grant application since the Bond Act's start in 2000.



"We did it all!"

Patricia Harper, Siskiyou County Librarian, the library director in charge of the winning grant application, says, "We had no outside assistance – we [library staff and community members] did it all!" Harper and the community team, for example, made their own video for the application. "I got my camera out, and shot it in one take with no rehearsals," she said. The Dorris volunteer who narrated the video, Harper reports, simply spoke from the heart.

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Tiny community wins big grant, continued

One generous member of the Dorris Library Building Committee (who wishes to remain anonymous) donated real estate on one of the city's busiest streets for the new library. The donated site is appropriately sized for both the library building (which will be 3300 square feet) and library parking, and is within easy walking distance of the preschool, elementary school, and high school.

Further evidence of the community's teamwork is that the Dorris Library will be a joint-use facility, the product of a genuine partnership between the City of Dorris, the County of Siskiyou, and the Butte Valley Unified School District. When the library opens, a student advisory board will provide input about library services; the school district will provide educational software; and trained volunteers will assist school staff in the library homework center after school.

Harper says working with the library staff, the Dorris Building Committee, and the Friends of the Library at the community events was "a wonderful experience" that gave her fresh insights into Dorris. While working on the needs assessment for example, she heard why patrons so badly want music CDs in the library —Dorris doesn't have radio reception.

The Dorris City Council is in full support of the Dorris Library project. "Our support has been amazing," exudes Harper.

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Although all grant funds from the Library Bond Act of 2000 have been awarded to library jurisdictions throughout California, voters will decide whether to provide an additional \$600 million for public library construction and renovation in the June 2006 primary election. Last year Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill by Senator Dede Alpert that authorizes a vote of the people in the proposed 2006 Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act, a copy of which is can be found on the Office of Library Construction web site at: <http://olc.library.ca.gov/legislation.asp>.

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Radio Works!

Radio proves helpful in improving literacy

Literacy consultants at the California State Library (CSL) have found strong evidence showing that radio can help adults to learn to speak, read, and write English. This was the conclusion of a two-year program that encouraged Spanish-speaking adults in a rural area to listen to special radio programming designed to help them acquire language skills in English.

The [Marin County Free Library](#) and the [San Rafael Public Library](#) set up the program, *Radio Works!*, in rural Marin County in 1999, working with 57 Spanish-speaking adults who wanted to improve their skills in English. Specifically, *Radio Works!* was designed to help them in dealing with situations requiring communication in English: calling 911, taking a job interview, reading aloud to children, meeting a child's teacher, purchasing a car, describing symptoms to a doctor, and other situations in which clear communication is vital. The program operated on funds provided by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), federal legislation that provides funding for testing and establishing library programs and services.

Almost four years after the program in Marin County ended, consultants at the CSL decided to evaluate its long-term results. What they found, according to Carla Lehn, a CSL consultant, was that *Radio Works!* had changed people's lives in measurable ways. In fact, the results astounded many in the literacy field.

When researchers returned to Marin County to survey participants in the bilingual program, they found that 33 of the original 57 participants were still living in the area. They were able to conduct interviews with 21 of these with the following results:

- 100 percent have enrolled in library literacy programs.
- 95 percent have checked out books for themselves from the library.
- 70 percent said that the program had helped them to communicate with their employers.
- 85 percent engage in pre-literacy activities with their children.
- 70 percent attend Story Time at the library with their small children.
- Two are studying for their GEDs.
- Two have been employed in their first jobs.
- Two have found better jobs.
- Three are taking computer classes.
- Two purchased homes for the first time.

These findings are powerful evidence that *Radio Works!* was an effective program for delivering literacy services to people in rural areas. During the two-year program, from 1999 through 2001, [KWMR FM](#) in Marin County made regular weekly broadcasts in Spanish and English. Participants were given workbooks in which they could follow the dialog on the radio. Each segment offered a dramatized "novella" about a situation that could prove difficult for a person who could not speak or read English, such as purchasing a car or talking to a doctor or interviewing for a job.

Radio Works! was the first LSTA-sponsored program in California that was designated an [Outcomes Measures](#) project, designed to provide data on measurable changes in behavior resulting from a government-funded program. In the case of *Radio Works!*, the measurable changes in behavior were dramatic.

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Compelling literacy posters available online

We know libraries change lives but it's always good to remind the public of that impact! Now four adult learners who learned to read and write through their library's literacy services testify to the life-changing nature of libraries in a series of new posters. The posters, which California State Library staff just mailed to literacy staff throughout the state, are also available for downloading at literacyworks.org.

The creation of the posters was supported by LSTA funding administered by the California State Library.



"Enrique" is one of the popular literacy posters available for libraries

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The Twix Dilemma: The Quest for a Streamlined Sales Tax

Have you ever noticed that when you make online purchases, some companies charge sales tax while others do not? Have you ever bought something online in order to avoid paying the California sales tax at your local store? Some states and businesses would like to change that.

Under current law, out-of-state vendors cannot be required to collect sales tax unless they have a physical presence (a store, office, etc.) in the purchaser's state. In a 1992 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that requiring all out-of-state vendors to collect the tax would unduly burden interstate commerce. With the growth of e-commerce, state governments have become increasingly concerned about the loss of sales and use taxes on their residents' out-of-state purchases. Main Street businesses, which are required to collect sales tax, are also clamoring for a level playing field with their online competitors.

The complexities of current sales tax laws are mind-boggling. There are more than 7,500 taxing jurisdictions in the United States. Many of these jurisdictions have different tax rates. Many also have different tax bases, which means that definitions of what goods and services are taxed vary across jurisdictions.

The Streamlined Sales Tax Project (SSTP) is a national effort to simplify, standardize and modernize the sales tax system. In November 2002, the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement was approved by 30 states and the District of Columbia. California has been fairly slow to become involved; the state became an active voting participant in the SSTP effort in January 2004. The next step is for California to decide whether to conform its sales and use tax laws to those of the Agreement. Preliminary analysis by the California State Board of Equalization indicates that conforming to the Agreement would require a major overhaul of the state's sales and use tax system and would mean that California would lose some "sovereignty" with respect to making its own sales tax policy. Taxes collected on sales throughout the state would be affected, not just taxes on sales made over the Internet.

One goal of the Streamlined Sales Tax Project and its Agreement (SSUTA) is to provide states with a sales tax system that includes uniform definitions within the sales and use tax laws. State legislatures can decide what to tax and what not to tax, but they have to follow SSUTA definitions. Are marshmallows candy or food? Is orange juice a soft drink or a fruit juice? Is a Twix bar a candy or a cookie? According to the SSUTA definitions, for example, a Twix bar is a cookie because it uses flour as an ingredient.

Defining food items for taxation purposes can be tricky. Californians may remember the outcry when the 'Snack Tax' was implemented in the early 1990s. If you bought potato chips at the convenience store in a small packet, they were taxed. If purchased at the grocery store in a larger bag, they were not taxed. It was confusing, irritating, and resulted in the passage of Proposition 13 in 1992, which froze the previous statutory definition of 'food' for sales tax purposes into the California Constitution.

In *The Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement: A California Perspective* (CRB-05-001, February 2005), Martha Jones, Ph.D., a Senior Economist in the California State Library's California Research Bureau, analyzes the impacts of joining the Agreement on the California sales and use tax system. The report also analyzes state revenue losses due to the inability to enforce use tax collection on remote sales (mail catalog

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Endowment Board awards 13 at May 18 meeting

The California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board met May 18, 2005 at the Ronald Reagan State Building in Los Angeles to approve funding for 13 of the 33 projects for which the Board had reserved funding in December 2004. This is one of the major phases in the Endowment's first cycle distribution of Proposition 40 bond funds. The Endowment is housed at the California State Library.

At the conclusion of the May 18 Los Angeles meeting, the Board approved funding for the following projects:

Endowment Finalist / Awarded Funds:

- California Museum for History, Women, and the Arts: \$375,000
- City of Santa Monica: \$113,241
- Imperial Valley College Desert Museum Society: \$244,642
- City of Watsonville: \$300,074
- Bay Area Electric Railroad Association: \$310,520
- Monterey County Redevelopment Agency: \$380,060
- Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association: \$499,500
- Angels Flight Railway Foundation: \$996,350
- City of Brentwood: \$819,839
- Knight Foundry Corp.: \$50,000
- San Diego Natural History Museum: \$2,887,500
- Cesar E. Chavez Foundation: \$2,500,000
- Capital Unity Council: \$2,200,000

TOTAL: \$11,676,726

The 13 applicants to whom the Endowment Board awarded funds were selected from 276 total Endowment grant applicants. The finalists most clearly demonstrated the Endowment's purposes and goals.

AB 716, the California Cultural and Historic Endowment Act, called for the creation of the California Cultural and Historical Endowment to support the "acquisition, development, preservation, and interpretation of buildings, structures, sites, places, and artifacts that preserve and demonstrate culturally significant aspects of California's history and for grants for these purposes." To carry out the Act's mandate, the Endowment will, over the cycles established by its Board, distribute \$122 million of \$276 million in Proposition 40 funds.

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The California State Library hears from you!

California State Public Library Staff Education Program

[The Public Library Staff Education Program (PLSEP) pays the tuition for public library employees who pursue degrees in librarianship. To qualify for the tuition assistance, an applicant must have worked for a public library for at least one year. Currently there are 97 students in library schools who receive tuition assistance under the program, which is funded by LSTA.]

"Thank you for the opportunities afforded me through the California State Library tuition assistance program...I am extremely excited to be a part of this rapidly progressing profession. I have worked for the Whittier Public Library for the past 7 years and in that time have had the privilege to see and experience all that the library offers the community. I look forward to beginning my career as a librarian and advocate for the people in the community. Thank you for helping me to realize this dream."

- Venus Snell, Acquisitions, Whittier Public library

"I am a 2004-05 recipient of a PLSEP grant and it has really helped me afford the cost of becoming a librarian. I am now less than one year away from finishing my degree at SJSU. I am a part-time, hourly librarian at Fullerton Public Library and besides some hours at the desk, I provide story time programming for pre-schoolers...Please continue to support PLSEP so that future students may receive help with tuition costs in order to serve our communities "@ the Library."

- Judy Booth, La Habra

"I have worked at the Oakland Public Library for 2½ years and began my MLIS program at San Jose last January. It is because of the LSTA funds that I was able to attend SJSU.... Your assistance has been critical for me."

- Lucia Willow, Oakland Public Library

Reach Out and Read

[Reach Out and Read is a nationwide program headquartered in Massachusetts and designed to work with health-care providers to encourage parents to read aloud to their small children. In California the Reach Out and Read model has been modified under an LSTA grant to bring public libraries into the mix. The libraries provide the age-appropriate books that health-care providers distribute to parents of children under five years of age.]

"Thanks to the California State Library for helping Reach Out and Read programs in California. I was hired last March to spread the word about Reach Out and Read to community clinics in Los Angeles County. I am always pleased to hear Suzanne Flint, CA Reach Out and Read Executive Director, report to our state coalition about the partnerships of libraries and clinics throughout the state thanks to LSTA grants. Thank you again. I hope this partnership can continue and expand."

- Debbie Mackay

Reach Out and Read Los Angeles Project Coordinator

Radio Works!

"I am using Rhea Rubin's evaluation of the Radio Works! program with one of my classes here at the University of Michigan. The evaluation captures the power of this program and

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Field Feedback, continued

the executive summary transmits the evidence effectively.

Thanks for funding the program that has provided such a fine exemplar for my students."

- Joan C. Durrance
PhD, School of Information, University of Michigan

LSTA Initiative

"Thank you for the great news about the 2005/06 LSTA OCLC Worldcat initiative! I have been pushing in both Sunnyvale and San Mateo County Library for Worldcat subscriptions. It makes sense for libraries to offer Worldcat if our users are going to get used to seeing it through the Open Worldcat project. You are providing us with a way to "close the loop" so that people will begin to see that there is a synergy between libraries and Internet search engines rather than either one making the other irrelevant.

As this progresses I hope we can also look at whether a California Catalog would make sense for resource sharing using the OCLC shared catalog approach. I think this approach is what we were all dreaming of way back when we started testing things like WebZ and Supersearch. It makes a lot of sense for us to get this added value from the database we are all already contributing to."

- Victoria L. Johnson
Director of Library Services, San Mateo County Library

Mekel Mavens

"

The article in the Spring 2005 CSL Connection about the Mekel machine pointed out a service that will be extremely valuable to our students and faculty...Thank you for your help navigating to this excellent service."

- Rosanna Brown
Lassen Community College Library

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National Public Radio, continued

Callison asked Hildreth about the value of Internet filtering. Calling it a “tricky issue” and “a local one,” Hildreth said that filters are not “perfect” and that parents must educate their children on inappropriate Internet sites. Callison then hit on the [USA Patriot Act](#), asking Hildreth if the Act is “a threat to people’s privacy.”

Hildreth responded that the “United States public really values its libraries and feel strongly that library borrower information should be protected and remain private.” Wrapping up the interview, the CAC’s Muriel Johnson joined with Hildreth in calling for a better balance in arts and library funding between affluent and impoverished neighborhoods. Johnson enthusiastically concurred with Hildreth’s assertion that something must be done to “level the playing field.”

Twix Dilemma, continued

and electronic sales). Advocates for the streamlining process argue that use tax compliance would improve if all states were to comply with the SSUTA. Opponents argue that estimates of revenue losses due to remote sales are too high and that online commerce should not be taxed.

The Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement is available at
<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/05/01/05-001.pdf>.

To view other California Research Bureau reports please visit:
<http://www.library.ca.gov/html/statseg2a.cfm>.

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